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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/826,272	04/19/2004	Kazuhiro Fujii	SN-US045038	9912
22919 7590 04/18/2007 GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP 1233 20TH STREET, NW, SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20036-2680			EXAMINER LUONG, VINH	
			ART UNIT 3682	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE			MAIL DATE	
3 MONTHS			04/18/2007	
			DELIVERY MODE PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/826,272

Applicant(s)

FUJII, KAZUHIRO

Examiner

Vinh T. Luong

Art Unit

3682

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

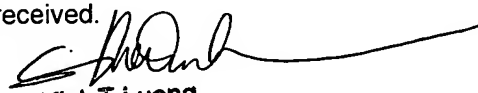
Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 April 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.


Vinh T. Luong
Primary Examiner

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☒ Other: Attachments 1 and 2.

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1. Applicant's election without traverse of the species of FIGS. 1-16 in the reply filed on January 10, 2007 is acknowledged.

2. No claim is withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on January 10, 2007.

3. The drawings are objected to because the drawings are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.84. See Form PTO-948 attached. For example:

(a) The lines, numbers & letters not uniformly thick and well defined, clean, durable, and black. See 37 CFR 1.84(l);

(b) The hatching must be made by regularly spaced oblique parallel lines spaced sufficiently apart to enable the lines to be distinguished without difficulty. 37 CFR 1.84(h)(3). Applicant's lines of hatching in, *e.g.*, FIGS. 7, 21, and 24 are not sufficiently spaced apart;

(c) The view numbers must be preceded by the abbreviation "FIG." instead of "Fig." See 37 CFR 1.84(u)(1);

(d) The view number must not be used in association with brackets. 37 CFR 1.84(u)(2). Applicant's view number, *e.g.*, "Fig. 9" is used in association with a bracket; and/or

(e) Each part of the invention, *e.g.*, "a mating mounting structure" in claims 1 and 2 should be designated by a referential character.

Applicant is respectfully urged to follow examples of proper drawings in the Guide for the Preparation of Patent Drawings available from the USPTO website www.uspto.gov. See MPEP 608.02

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement-drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because of the objections above. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: each part of the invention, *e.g.*, "a mating mounting structure" in claims 1 and 2 should be designated by a referential character. Appropriate correction is required.

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6. Claim 12 is objected to because of the following informalities: claim 12 has grammatical or typographical error, e.g., the recitation “the first and second shift control device” should have been changed to “the first and second shift control devices.” Appropriate correction is required.

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The term, such as, “removeable” in claim 1 is vague and indefinite in the sense that things which may be done are not required to be done. For example, the switch portion is removeable *but is not structurally required to be* removed from the mounting portion. See “discardable” in *Mathis v. Hydro Air Industries*, 1 USPQ2d 1513, 1527 (D.C. Calif. 1986), “crimpable” in *Application of Collier*, 158 USPQ 266 (CCPA 1968), “removable” in *In re Burke Inc.*, 22 USPQ2d 1368, 1372 (D.C. Calif. 1992), and “comparable” in *Ex parte Anderson*, 21 USPQ2d 1241, 1249 (BPAI 1992).

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

10. Claims 1-7, as best understood, and claims 11-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Ichida et al. (EP 1 375 325 A2 cited by Applicant).

Regarding claim 1, Ichida teaches an electrical bicycle shift control device comprising:

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a mounting portion 41 (FIGS. 3, 9, etc.) configured to be selectively secured to a bicycle portion (i.e., a handgrip) of a bicycle (FIG. 2, see Attachment 1 hereinafter "Att. 1"), the mounting portion 41 including a switch mounting structure (unnumbered, see, e.g., FIGS. 9 and 10 of Att. 1); and

an electrical shift control switch portion 40 including a mating mounting structure detachably coupled to the switch mounting structure (Att. 1) and an operating member 42 arranged and configured to move relative to the mounting portion 41 between a neutral position and a first actuating position, the mating mounting structure of the electrical shift control switch portion 40 cooperating with the switch mounting structure (Att. 1) such that the electrical control switch portion 40 is removeable from the mounting portion 41 without removing the mounting portion 41 from the bicycle portion.

Note that paragraph [0034] describes that the sidewalls 40b and 40c can be replaced with mounting flanges and/or the bottom wall 40a can be completely removed. Since the bottom wall 40a of the control switch portion 40 is removable from the mounting portion 41, the control switch portion 40 is removable therewith without removing the mounting portion 41 from the bicycle portion as claimed.

Regarding claim 2, the mating mounting structure and the switch mounting structure (Att. 1) include a protrusion (FIGS. 9 and 10) and recess 50 (FIG. 8, paragraph [0034]-[0036]) arrangement that are releasably coupled together by a fastener 64 such that the mating mounting structure is movable relative to the switch mounting structure (Att. 1) when the fastener 64 is removed.

Regarding claim 3, the operating member 42 is further arranged and configured to be selectively moved relative to the mounting portion 41 between the neutral position (FIG. 4, see Brief Description of the Drawings) and a second actuating position (FIG. 6) that is spaced from the first actuating position (FIG. 5).

Regarding claim 4, the electrical shift control switch portion further includes a biasing element 48 arranged and configured to urge the operating member 42 to the neutral position. See paragraph [0032].

Regarding claim 5, the operating member 42 of the electrical shift control switch portion 40 is further arranged and configured to rotate about an operating axis P (FIGS. 4, 15, 16, and 18) between the neutral position and the first and second actuating positions. See paragraph [0032] and claims 1-35.

Regarding claim 6, the operating axis P of the operating member 42 is capable of being non-parallel to a center axis of the portion (FIG. 2 of Att. 1) of the bicycle as seen by adjusting the position of the mounting portion 41 along the handle bar 16 as seen in FIG. 2.

Regarding claim 7, the operating member 42 of the electrical shift control switch portion 40 is further arranged and configured such that the first and second actuating positions are arranged on opposite sides of the neutral position (FIGS. 4-6).

Regarding claim 11, Ichida teaches an electrical bicycle shift control assembly comprising: a first shift control device 24a (FIG. 2) including a first mounting portion 41 (Att. 1) configured to be selectively secured to a first (right handgrip) bicycle portion of a bicycle 10 (FIG. 2 of Att. 1) and a first electrical shift control switch portion 40 mounted to the first

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mounting portion 41; and a bicycle computer unit including a display screen 20 being *operatively* supported/coupled by the first mounting portion 41. *Ibid.* paragraph [0027] and claims 26-35.

Claim 11 and other claims below are anticipated by Ichida because Ichida teaches each and every positively claimed element in the claim. On the one hand, Ichida's mounting portion 41 is capable of being selectively secured to the handgrip portion of the bicycle by loosening and tightening of the clamp 41. Note that the term "operatively coupled" in Ichida's claims 26-35 does not require the mounting means and the housing be affixed to one another in manner that results in two components forming unitary structure, since general descriptive term "operatively coupled" means only that components must be connected in a manner to perform designated function. *Innova/Pure Water Inc. v. Safari Water Filtration Systems Inc.*, 72 USPQ2d 1001 (Fed. Cir. 2004).

Regarding claim 12, Ichida teaches second shift control device 24b (*id.* paragraphs [0020] and [0030]) including a second mounting portion 41 configured to be clamped onto a second (left handgrip) bicycle portion (FIG. 2 of Att. 1) of the bicycle 10 and a second electrical shift control switch portion 40 mounted to the second mounting portion 41, the bicycle computer unit being *operatively* supported between the first and second shift control devices 24a and 24b by at least the first mounting portion 40. Note that the first and second shift control devices are substantially identical to each other as described in paragraph [0030].

Regarding claim 13, the first mounting portion 41 includes a band section (FIG. 9 of Att. 1) and a computer support leg 16 (FIG. 2 of Att. 1) extending from the band section, and the bicycle computer unit 20 is attached to the computer support leg 16 of the first mounting portion.

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Regarding claim 14, the computer support leg 16 includes a bent section (FIG. 2 of Att. 1) such that the bicycle computer unit 20 is longitudinally offset from the band section (FIG. 9 of Att. 1) along the first bicycle portion (FIG. 2 of Att. 1).

Regarding claim 15, the first electrical shift control switch portion 40 includes a first operating member 42 arranged and configured to move relative to the first mounting portion 41 between a first neutral position and a first actuating position. See claims 1-35.

Regarding claims 16-18, see regarding claims 3, 4, and 1 above.

11. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

12. Claims 1 and 8-10, as best understood, and claims 22-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Uno et al. (US Patent No. 6,991,081 B2 filed on November 26, 2003).

The applied reference has a common inventor (Fujii) with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention “by another,” or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Regarding 22, Uno teaches an electrical bicycle shift control device 36, 38 (see col. 9, line 54 through col. 10, line 2) comprising a mounting portion 42, 40 (FIG. 8) configured to be clamped onto a portion 14 of a bicycle; and an electrical shift control switch portion 60, 61 (FIG. 11) coupled to the mounting portion 42, 40, the electrical shift control switch portion 61, 60 including an operating member 61 arranged and configured to move relative to the mounting portion 42, 40 between a neutral position and a first actuating position, the operating member 61 including a dial-shaped element 70 that is configured and arranged to rotate about an operating axis A2, A3 to move the operating member 61 between the neutral position and the first actuating position.

Regarding claim 23, the dial-shaped element 70 has at least one projection 61a extending radially outwardly from the dial-shaped element 70 relative to the operating axis A2, A3.

Regarding claim 24, the dial element 70 has a flange element 61b or 61c (FIGS. 3 and 4, col. 7, line 4+) extending outwardly therefrom that is circumferentially spaced from the projection 61a about the operating axis A2, A3.

Regarding claim 25, the at least one projection 61a has a radial dimension that is about the same as a maximum radial dimension of the dial-shaped element 70 as measured relative to the operating axis A2, A3.

Regarding claim 26, the mounting portion 42, 40 includes a curved mounting surface 42 extending about a central axis (see FIG. 8 of Attachment 2 hereinafter "Att. 2") to contact the bicycle portion 14 and the operating axis A2 is non-parallel to the central axis (Att. 2).

Regarding claim 27, the operating axis A2 intersects the curved mounting surface 42 of the mounting portion 42, 40 as seen in, e.g., FIG. 8.

Regarding claim 28, the electrical shift control switch portion 61, 60 is detachably coupled to the mounting portion 42, 40 such that the electrical control switch portion 61, 60 is removeable from the mounting portion 42, 40 without removing the mounting portion 42, 40 from the bicycle portion 14.

Regarding claim 29, the operating member 61 is further arranged and configured to be selectively moved relative to the mounting portion 42, 40 between the neutral position and a second actuating position that is spaced from the first actuating position. *Ibid.* claims 1-46.

Regarding claim 30, the electrical shift control switch portion 60, 61 further includes a biasing element 90 arranged and configured to urge the operating member 61 to the neutral position.

Regarding claim 31, the dial-shaped element 70 of the operating member 61 is further arranged and configured to rotate about the operating axis A2, A3 to move the operating member 61 between the neutral position and the first and second actuating positions. *Ibid.* claims 1-46.

Regarding claim 1, Uno teaches an electrical bicycle shift control device 36, 38 comprising a mounting portion 42, 40, 32 (FIG. 8) configured to be selectively secured to a bicycle portion 14 of a bicycle, the mounting portion 42, 40, 32 including a switch mounting structure 40, 32 (id. col. 5, line 57 through col. 6, line 14); and an electrical shift control switch portion 60, 61 (FIG. 11) including a mating mounting structure 52 detachably coupled to the switch mounting structure 40, 32 and an operating member 61 arranged and configured to move relative to the mounting portion 42, 40, 32 between a neutral position and a first actuating position, the mating mounting structure 52 of the electrical shift control switch portion 60, 61 cooperating with the switch mounting structure 42, 32 such that the electrical control switch

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portion 60, 61 is removeable from the mounting portion 42, 40, 32 without removing the mounting portion 42, 40, 32 from the bicycle portion 14 (by loosening the fasteners 52).

Regarding claims 8-10, see regarding claims 22-24 above.

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

15. Claims 11, 12, 15-17 and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Uno et al. (US Patent No. 6,991,081 B2).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art only under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) might be overcome by: (1) a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not an invention "by another"; (2) a showing of a date of invention for the claimed subject matter of the application which corresponds to subject matter disclosed but not claimed in the reference, prior to the effective U.S. filing date of the reference

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under 37 CFR 1.131; or (3) an oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.130 stating that the application and reference are currently owned by the same party and that the inventor named in the application is the prior inventor under 35 U.S.C. 104, together with a terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). This rejection might also be overcome by showing that the reference is disqualified under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) as prior art in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). See MPEP § 706.02(l)(1) and § 706.02(l)(2).

Regarding claim 11, Uno teaches an electrical bicycle shift control assembly comprising: a first (left) shift control device 36, 38 including a first mounting portion 42, 40, 32, 30, 54 configured to be selectively secured to a first (left) bicycle portion 14 of a bicycle and a first electrical shift control switch portion 60, 61 mounted to the first mounting portion 42, 40, 32, 30, 54; and a bicycle computer unit 24 being operatively supported by the first mounting portion 42, 40, 32, 30, 54.

Uno teaches the invention substantially as claimed. However, Uno does not explicitly teach a display screen of the computer unit.

It is common knowledge in the art to form the computer unit having the display screen for displaying the data from the computer. The display screen is notoriously well known as evidenced by the art cited (see, e.g., US Patent No. 6,305,241 issued to Masui et al.).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the display screen in the computer unit of Uno in order to display the data as taught or suggested by common knowledge in the art.

Regarding claim 12, Uno teaches a second (right) shift control device 36, 38 (FIG. 2) including a second mounting portion 42, 40, 32, 30, 54 configured to be clamped onto a second

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(right) bicycle portion 14 of the bicycle and a second electrical shift control switch portion 60, 61 mounted to the second mounting portion 42, 40, 32, 30, 54, the computer unit 24 being operatively supported between the first and second shift control devices by at least the first mounting portion.

Regarding claims 15 and 16, see Uno's first operating member 61.

Regarding claim 17, see Uno's first biasing element 90.

Regarding claim 19, see Uno's first operating axis A2, A3.

Regarding claim 20, see Uno's first dial element 70 with at least one first projection 61a.

Regarding claim 21, see Uno's flange element 61b or 61c (FIG. 4).

16. Claim 1, as best understood, and claim 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wesling et al. (US Patent No. 6,698,307 B2 filed on October 23, 2001 cited by Applicant).

Regarding claim 1, Wesling teaches an electrical bicycle shift control device 10 comprising a mounting portion 14, 26 (FIGS. 1-6) configured to be selectively secured to a bicycle portion 12 of a bicycle, the mounting portion 14, 26 including a switch mounting structure 14; and an electrical shift control switch portion 16 including a mating mounting structure 48 detachably coupled to the switch mounting structure 14 and an operating member 34 arranged and configured to move relative to the mounting portion 14, 26 between a neutral position and a first actuating position, the mating mounting structure 48 of the electrical shift control switch portion 16 cooperating with the switch mounting structure 14 such that the electrical control switch portion 16 is removeable from the mounting portion 14, 26 without removing the mounting portion 14, 26 from the bicycle portion 12.

Regarding 22, Wesling teaches an electrical bicycle shift control device 10 comprising a mounting portion 14, 26 configured to be clamped onto a portion 12 of a bicycle; and an electrical shift control switch portion 16 coupled to the mounting portion 14, 26, the electrical shift control switch portion 16 including an operating member 34 arranged and configured to move relative to the mounting portion 14, 26 between a neutral position and a first actuating position, the operating member 34 including a dial-shaped element 34 that is configured and arranged to rotate about an operating axis (unnumbered in FIG. 2) to move the operating member 34 between the neutral position and the first actuating position. *Ibid.* Col. 2, line 61+.

17. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

18. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Masui et al. (US Patent No. 6,305,241 B1).

Masui teaches an electrical bicycle shift control assembly comprising: a first shift control device including a first mounting portion 30 configured to be selectively secured to a first bicycle portion 18 of a bicycle and a first electrical shift control switch portion 14 mounted to the first mounting portion 30; and a bicycle computer unit including a display screen 16 being supported by the first mounting portion 30. *Ibid.* col. 3, line 22+ and claims 1-25.

19. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Ueno (FIG. 9), Kishimoto (FIG. 8), Takeda (display 24), Darland et al. (mounting member 16), and Kitamura et al. (FIGS. 5 and 6).

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20. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vinh T. Luong whose telephone number is 571-272-7109. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Ridley can be reached on 571-272-6917. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Luong

April 16, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vinh T. Luong', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Vinh T. Luong
Primary Examiner

ATTACHMENT 1

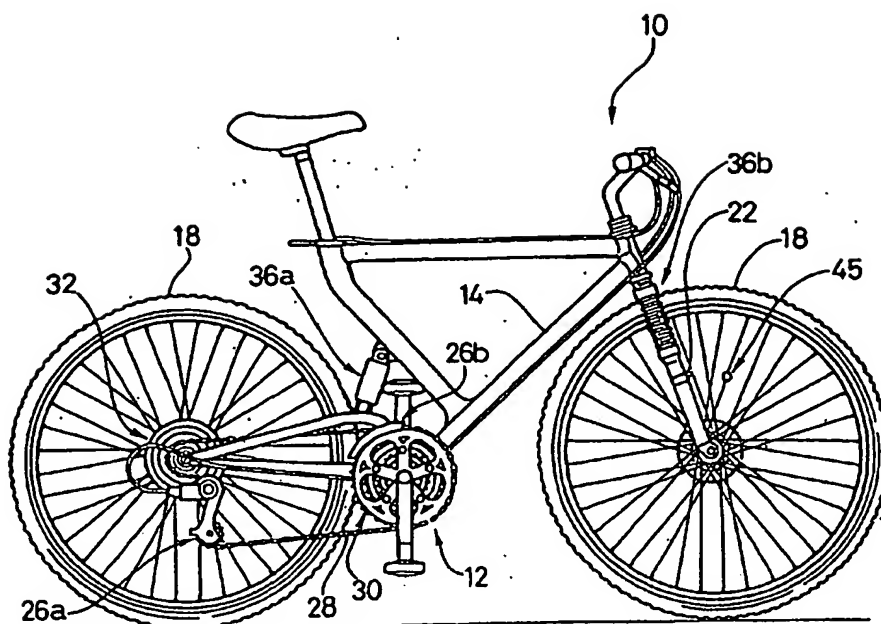


FIG. 1

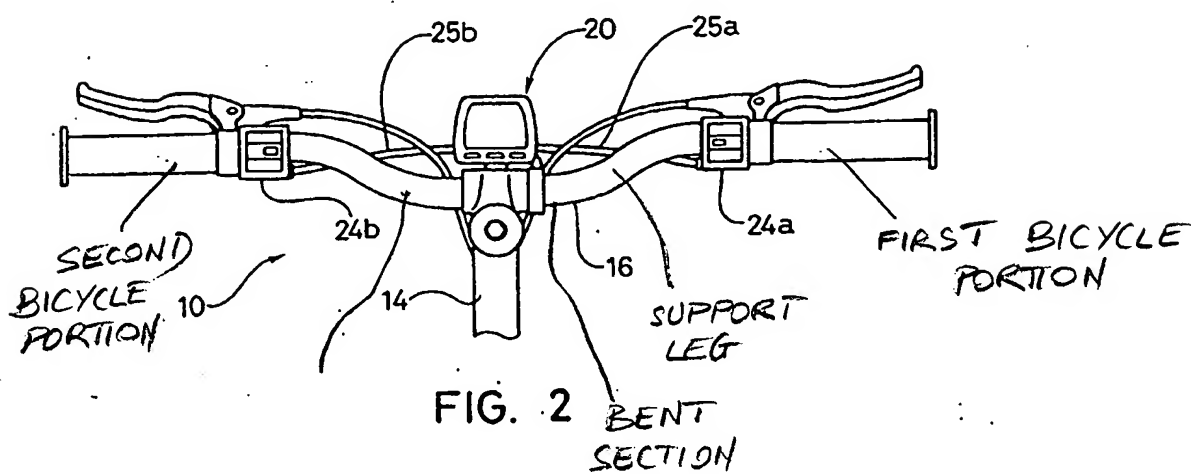


FIG. 2

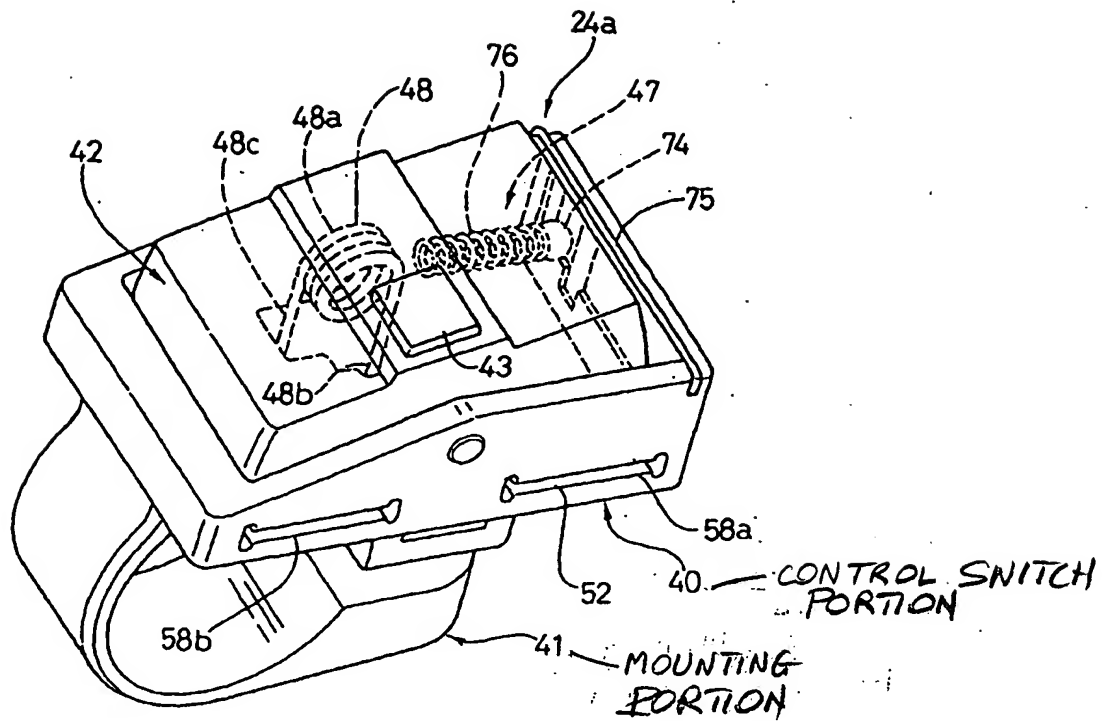


FIG. 3

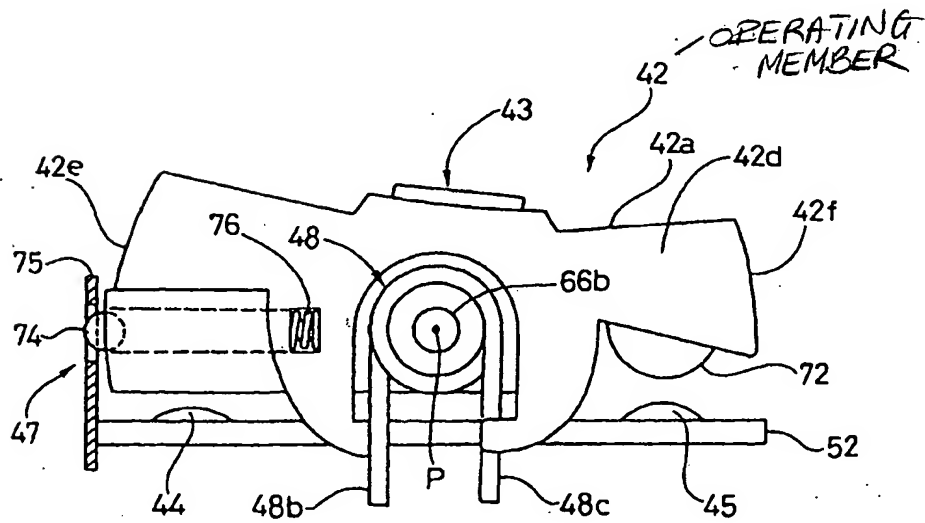


FIG. 4

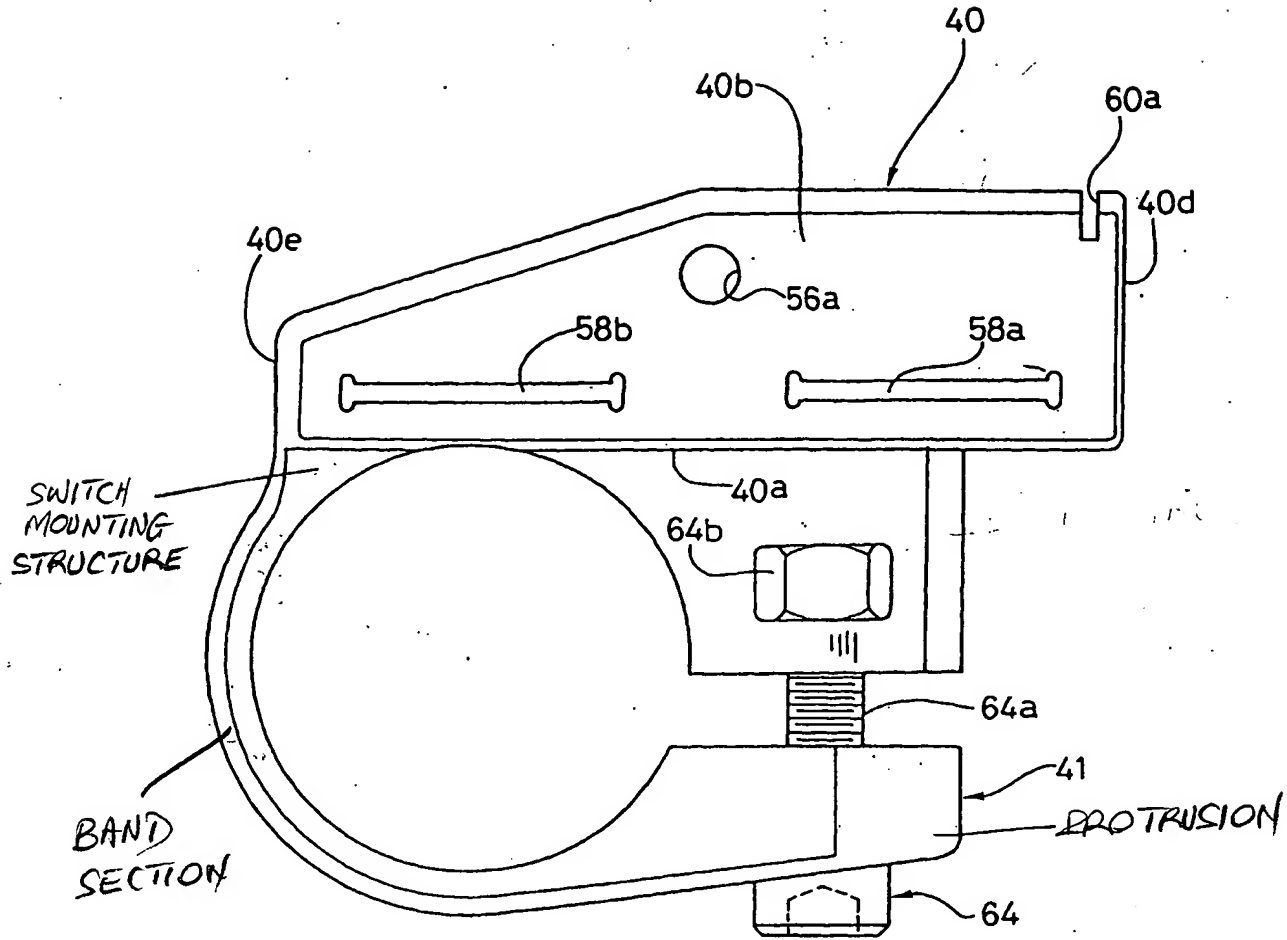


FIG. 9

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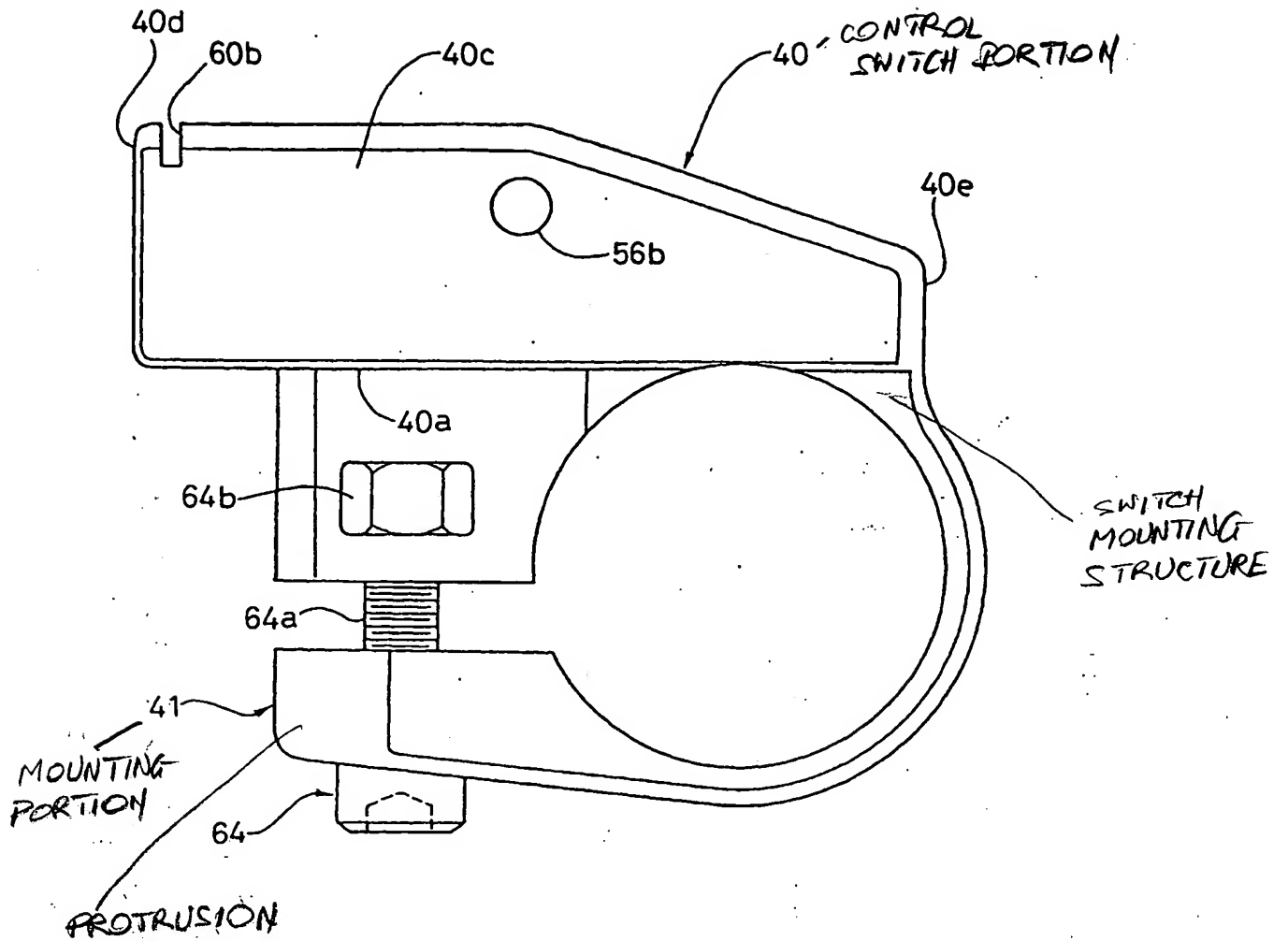


FIG. 10

ATTACHMENT 2

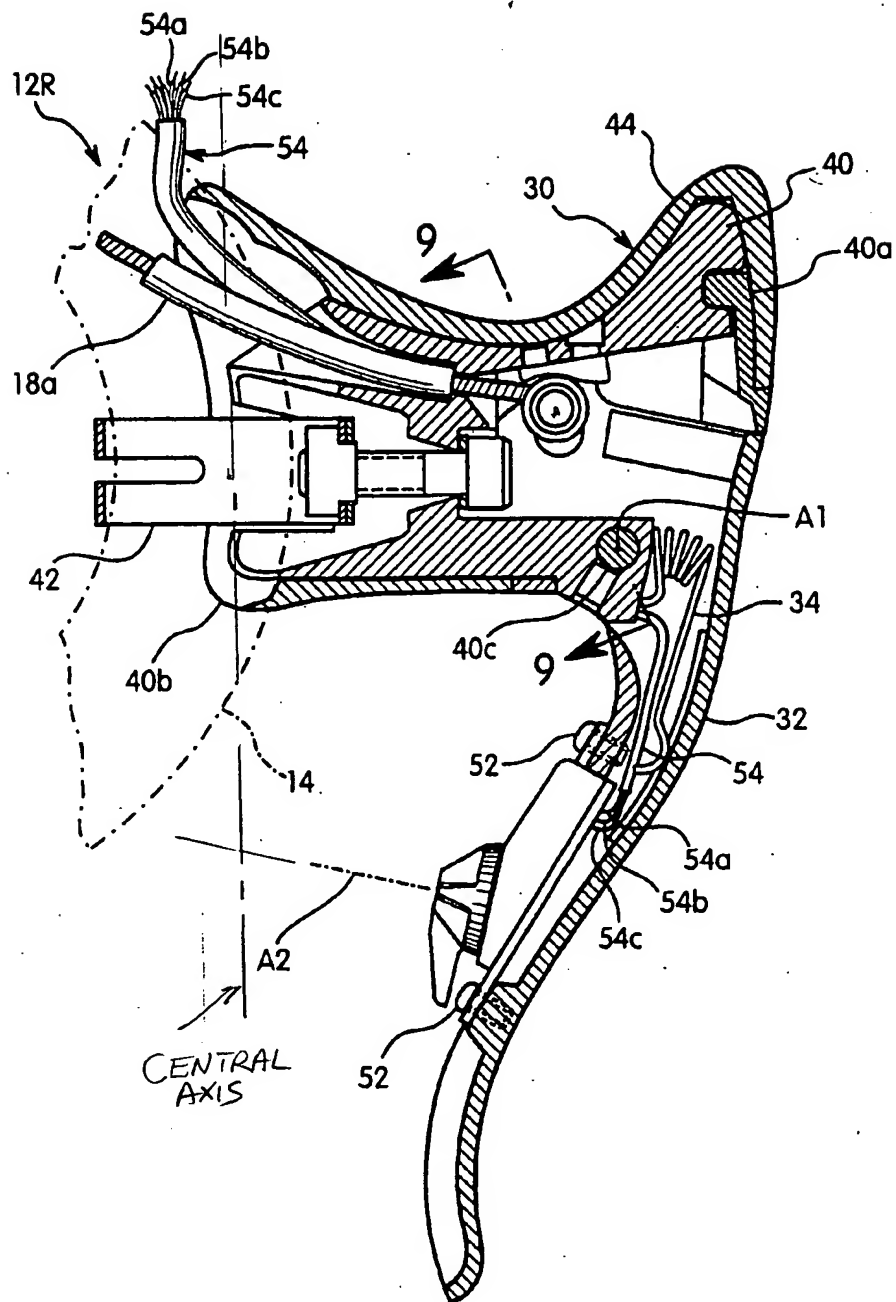


Fig. 8